



Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

Mayor James L. Streeter, Councilors Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Paulann H. Sheets, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Streeter.

Members Present: Mayor Streeter, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Sheets and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Peruzzotti

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by RTM Representative Nancy Gilly.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2011-0086 Proclamation Recognizing National Arbor Day

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Kolnaski.

2011-0097 Proclamation Recognizing Eli Morton

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Watson.

2011-0102 Proclamation Recognizing Earth Day

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Sheets.

2011-0103 Proclamation Recognizing Youth Week

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Monteiro.

Recognition for Comcast Cares Day

A statement recognizing Comcast Cares Day was read by Councilor Johnson.

Proclamation from Governor Malloy Recognizing Municipal Clerks Week

A proclamation recognizing Municipal Clerks Week was read by Councilor Flax.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2011-0111 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meetings of March 28, 2011, April 19, 2011 and April 26, 2011 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items**2011-0105 Special Trust Fund Contributions****RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS**

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Johnson's Hardware and Supply Co. - \$200.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Bridgeworks, LLC - \$1,000.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Suisman, Shapiro, Wool, Brennan, Gray and Greenberg, P.C. - \$250.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Jay Kane and Shoreline Diving - \$1,500.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Companion Animal Hospital - \$1,000.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Legs Landscaping - \$1,000.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Hotrod Cafe - \$350.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Mohegan Sun - \$2,500.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Various Donations - \$22.99 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
George Marshall - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Union Baptist Church - \$1,750.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Barbara Weeman - \$20.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Mr. and Mrs. David Bechtel in memory of Margaret "Dot" Kennedy - \$25.00 - Library Discretionary

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List**2011-0108 General Fund Balance Amount**

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2011-0106 Removal of Dam on Electric Boat Property, Poquonnock Road

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2011-0109 Lease of Photovoltaic Solar Electric System

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2011-0110 Proposed Revisions to Part-Time/Seasonal/Temporary Pay Plan and Policies

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.
The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)**a. Town Councilors**

Councilors received emails regarding items on the May 2, 2011, referendum.

Councilor Kolnaski and Mayor Streeter attended the Arbor Day tree planting ceremony.

Councilor Sheets, along with Mayor Streeter, attended an Earth Day celebration.

Councilor Watson worked at the polls on May 2, 2011. He was present at the Eagle Scout ceremony for Eli Morton at which he read a proclamation.

Mayor Streeter received an email regarding a health code violation and referred it to the Ledge Light Health District. He participated in the annual walk through Pequot Woods.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The RTM began its Annual Budget Meeting on April 28, 2011, and will recess as often as needed until the budget is completed on or before May 25, 2011.

c. Clerk of the Council

The Town Clerk stated that approximately 30% of Groton's voters turned out to vote on the referendum questions on May 2, 2011. The Thames Street Rehabilitation Program Ordinance passed and the Phase II School Facilities Program Ordinance failed.

d. Town Manager

The Town Manager stated that after looking at the referral list, Councilors may want to consider cancelling the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Peruzzotti

No meeting, no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson

No meeting, no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

No meeting, no report.

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Sheets

No meeting, no report.

e. Finance - Chairman O'Beirne

No meeting, no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax

No meeting, no report.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Monteiro

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Watson

No meeting, no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Streeter

Mayor Streeter stated that the resolutions on tonight's agenda are a result of the last Committee of the Whole meeting.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilor Watson requested an update on the path to be constructed on Thomas Road. The Town Manager will get an update and provide it to the Council.

X. NEW BUSINESS

2011-0106 Removal of Dam on Electric Boat Property, Poquonnock Road

ACKNOWLEDGMENT FOR A DAM BREACH ON ELECTRIC BOAT PROPERTY

WHEREAS, Electric Boat Corporation has made application to the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to breach the Trails Pond Dam, located on Electric Boat property at 456 Poquonnock Road, and

WHEREAS, the dam serves Trail Pond, located on Town of Groton property, and

WHEREAS, DEP has inquired of Electric Boat as to what level of involvement and concurrence the Town has with this project, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger is authorized to sign and submit to DEP a letter acknowledging the Town Council's knowledge of Electric Boat's pending application to breach the dam and indicating its general concurrence that the dam be breached subject to receiving and reviewing information noted in DEP's Notice of Insufficiency and review by the Town's Inland Wetlands Agency.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Watson, that this matter be Adopted as Amended.

The Town Manager noted that the local Inland Wetlands Agency does not have any formal jurisdiction, but it does have an opportunity to provide comments to DEP. The application is currently incomplete and a review of potential downstream effects if the dam is removed has not been provided. Mr. Oefinger suggested that the resolution be changed to make it clear to DEP that at this point the Town is in general concurrence, but would like to see additional information as it becomes available.

Councilor O'Beirne noted that the third WHEREAS paragraph should reflect that the inquiry was to Electric Boat as to what level of involvement there was from the Town and whether the Town was in concurrence.

*MOTION TO AMEND to change the third and fourth paragraphs to read,
"WHEREAS, DEP has inquired of Electric Boat as to what level of involvement and concurrence the Town has with this project, now therefore be it
RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger is authorized to sign and submit to DEP a letter acknowledging the Town Council's knowledge of Electric Boat's pending application to breach the dam and indicating its general concurrence that the dam be breached subject to receiving and reviewing information noted in DEP's Notice of Insufficiency and review by the Town's Inland Wetlands Agency." was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Sheets.*

VOTE on Motion to Amend passed unanimously.

The motion carried unanimously

2011-0109**Lease of Photovoltaic Solar Electric System**

LEASE OF PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR ELECTRIC SYSTEM

WHEREAS, DCS Energy of South Glastonbury, Connecticut has offered to lease photovoltaic solar systems to the Town of Groton at no cost, and

WHEREAS, Town staff, working with DCS, has identified buildings that meet the eligibility criteria for installation of the systems, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger is authorized to sign lease contracts with DCS Energy for photovoltaic solar systems following review by the Town Attorney of the contract's content.

A motion was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, that this matter be Adopted as Amended.

The Town Manager sent the contract to the Town Attorney who provided a number of questions and suggested changes. Therefore Mr. Oefinger suggested adding a phrase to the resolution to allow the Town Attorney to review the content of the contract.

MOTION TO AMEND to change the last paragraph to read, "RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger is authorized to sign lease contracts with DCS Energy for photovoltaic solar systems following review by the Town Attorney of the contract's content." was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded Councilor Monteiro.

The Town Manager noted that 19 applications were submitted and 11 were approved. The buildings identified to receive installations are as follows: the Town Hall Annex, the Police Station, the Groton Public Library, the Town Highway Garage, Cutler Middle School, Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School, two units at Fitch Senior High School, Northeast Academy, the School Administration Building, and the Noank Firehouse.

VOTE on Motion to Amend passed unanimously.

The motion carried unanimously

2011-0110

Proposed Revisions to Part-Time/Seasonal/Temporary Pay Plan and Policies

RESOLUTION APPROVING PART-TIME/SEASONAL/TEMPORARY PAY PLAN AND POLICIES

WHEREAS, the Part-Time/Seasonal/Temporary Pay Plan and Policies are updated on a regular basis, most recently in 2007, and

WHEREAS, a review of the plan and policies was recently undertaken and completed by Town staff, and

WHEREAS, the changes will allow the Town Manager the discretion to grant or not to grant a step increase to Part Time/Seasonal/Temporary Employees, and

WHEREAS, additional changes will address collective bargaining impacts and current practices, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the revised Part-Time/Seasonal/Temporary Pay Plan and Policies effective May 1, 2011.

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

By consensus of the Town Council, the May 10, 2011, meetings of the Committee of the Whole, Group I, and Group II will be cancelled.

The Town Manager noted that after Marian Galbraith is sworn in as Mayor of the City of Groton, he will meet with her to proceed with the Thames Street Rehabilitation Program. He also noted that as the Phase II School Facilities Program Ordinance failed, it will be up to the Board of Education to determine its next steps regarding school facilities.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:03 p.m. was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Monteiro and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant